

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. §1.111
U.S. Patent Appln. No. 10/033,875

Docket No. 340-773

REMARKS

The foregoing amendments and these remarks are in response to the Office Action dated November 20, 2002. This amendment is timely filed.

At the time of the Office Action, claims 1-22 were pending in the application. Claims 1, 9, 16, 17 and 19 are cancelled herein, and new claims 23-60 are added. Authorization to charge Deposit Account No. 50-0951 for the additional claims fees is included herein.

In the Office Action, claims 4-8, 11-14, 16, and 20 were objected to. Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 1-3, 9, 17-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). Claims 1-2, 9, 18, 20-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). Claims 1-3, 16, 18, 20-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e). Claims 10 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

I. Objections to Claims

Claims 4, 6, 13-14, 16, and 20 were objected to in the Office Action due to various informalities. Applicant has amended the claims herein to deal with these objections, withdrawal of which is respectfully requested.

II. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the use of the term "slightly" was asserted as rendering the claim indefinite. Applicant has cancelled claim 9 herein, and it is believed that all claims now conform properly with 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

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III. Claim Rejections on Art

Claims 1-3,9, and 17-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 3,742,179 to Harnden, Jr. (hereafter "Harnden"). Claims 1-2,9,18, and 20-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 4,431,908 to Fischer et al. (hereafter "Fischer"). Claims 103,16,18, and 20-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 6,375,350-B1 to Stein (hereafter "Stein").

Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Harnden. Claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Harnden and US Patent No. 6,220,750-B1 to Palti (hereafter "Palti").

Claims 4-8 and 11-14 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant has thus rewritten claims 4, 6, 8, 11, 13 and 14 as independent claims, and has introduced dependent claims for each of the new independent claims. The method claims 20 and 58 have been amended to include features from claims 6 and 11.

Please charge the fee of \$1050 (35 additional claims above 20 x \$18 + 5 independent claims above 3 x \$84) to Deposit Account No. 50-0951.

VI Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, the independent claims are believed patentable, and in condition for allowance. The dependent claims are also believed allowable because of their dependence upon an allowable independent claim and because of the further features recited.

Applicant has made every effort to present claims which distinguish over the prior art, and it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance. Nevertheless, Applicant invites the Examiner to call the undersigned if it is believed that a telephonic

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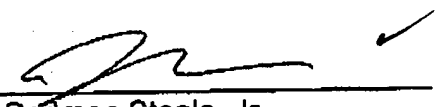
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interview would expedite the prosecution of the application to an allowance. In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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